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Watcher

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This fan-fiction article, **Watcher**, was written by Witcher190. Please do not edit this fiction without the writer's permission.

For the Extended Ancient Pantheon version of this race, check the Grigori article.

Watchers, also called **Grigori** by some mages and scholars, is the name used to refer to a mysterious, nameless race that has been spotted on The Continent since the days of the elven arrival. They are believed to be related in some form to the godlings. Characterized by their mastery over the Fifth Element, Watchers are a subgroup of the enigmatic Refaim. Most scholars and mages believe that numerous "mystical experiences" can be attributed to encounters with Watchers.

Some also theorize that the creator of the elves, often mentioned by the elves themselves when comparing their origins to the *"primitive humans*

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that evolved from monkeys," could be a Watcher. This theory is supported by the skin tones founded among the Aen Nílfe elves, better known as the Black Seidhe in the Northern Kingdoms.

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A Watcher in their "real" form

Taxonomy	
Monster Classification	Refaim
Danger Level	Almost impossible to defeat. Only very powerful mages could do it with some luck
Species	Watcher(?)
Related Species	Godling (?)
Physiology	
Height	Around 4.9 feet in natural form, may be shifted
Eyes	Usually bright eyes of unusual colors in their natural form but there are individuals who may have shades of darker eye colors, although this is rare
Ecology	
Lifespan	Everlasting
Intelligence	Infinitely superior to human
Nature	Depending on the Watcher
Range	Multiverse
Habitat	Anywhere where an oxygen atmosphere is available
Predators	Nefandi (Not in the traditional sense, but are antagonistic and will kill Grigori when given the chance)

Characteristics

Few if any, can claim to have seen the natural form of a Watcher. Descriptions of them mostly come from elven myths and tales of legendary figures such as the ones surrounding the famous witcher Geralt of Rivia and his bard friend Jaskier for example. Many believe they encountered a Watcher disguised as a normal village girl named Lille, who later took on the form of the elven "goddess" Dana Méadbh. Others also add to this encounter the experience that Geralt had with "Death" in a hallucinatory dream. Other reports include the "mystical experience" that the mage Yennefer of Vengerberg had in Skellige with the supposed goddess Freya, which many later believed to be a Grigori rather than some form of hallucinatory trance or similar phenomenon.

To this Yennefer report, we can also add the experience that the witcher Putnam Pitch had, in which he saw Freya after the Battle of Mahakam at the end of the Haaki Invasion of 1350 while the medics where trying to save his life. At this critical juncture, Putnam reportedly had a profound experience. He described finding himself in a serene, ethereal landscape, a stark contrast to the blood-soaked battlefield he had just left. It was here that Freya appeared before him, radiant and exuding a calm and comforting presence that belied the grim reality of his situation. Freya spoke to him, her voice melodic and soothing, offering words of wisdom and solace, assuring him that his time had not yet come and that he had a greater purpose to fulfill.

Many who hear Putnam's story attribute this vision to a hallucination induced by the extreme physical trauma and near-death experience he endured. However, there are compelling arguments that suggest otherwise. Some scholars and mages propose that this encounter was not a mere product of his mind's desperate attempts to cope with the trauma. Instead, they believe that Freya's appearance was the work of a Watcher. The key piece of evidence supporting this theory lies in the medics' assessment of Putnam's condition. By all medical accounts, he was clinically dead, with no heartbeat or breath detectable. Yet, against all odds, he returned to life. However, this "resurrection" could also be attributed to the medics' lack of expertise in dealing with the mutated witcher body.

But the most detailed accounts come from the legends surrounding the group known as the Hansa of Ebbing, particularly one of its members, the Bear Witcher, Cervin, who is believed to have had a sentimental relationship with one named Runa.

In all these appearances, Watchers are known to resemble mundane humans or other humanoid races such as elves. Beings capable of perceiving magical auras, such as elementa or mages, can recognize Watchers by the distinct shape of their auras: one bright gold around their skin, and the other light blue,

located behind their silhouette like a cloak or "wings." This dual aura is a distinctive hallmark, setting them apart from any other known magical entities.

A statue of a Watcher in a ruins in the wild represented with a "cloack" and "wings"

What is known for certain from these tales is that Watchers are beings unlike genies; they do not come from planes. It is theorized that they originate from another sphere or spheres. They are masters of Astral Magic, capable of performing "miracles" that any mage would envy, which is also theorized to grant them everlasting lifespans. Their mastery over Astral Magic suggests a deep and ancient knowledge of the fabric of the multiverse, allowing them to manipulate reality in ways that are incomprehensible to even the most learned mages. They are believed to possess intelligence infinitely superior to humans, perhaps akin to a collective consciousness that spans eons.

Taking into account the different tales surrounding Watchers, it is probable that in their true form, they have pale blue to greyish skin similar to godlings and some Aen Nílfe, with large, bright eyes of unusual colors akin to those of the godlings. Their facial features are humanoid, yet possess a certain otherworldly symmetry and lack the subtle imperfections that mark human faces, hinting at their possible connection to being the creators of the elves. This otherworldly beauty is often described as both captivating and unsettling, a reminder of their alien nature.

They are believed to be around 4.9 feet tall in their natural form, though their ability to shapeshift makes determining their exact height unreliable. They are described as being able to shapeshift into other non-humanoid creatures as well. This shapeshifting ability is not just limited to physical forms but can extend to their auras and magical signatures, making them nearly impossible to detect unless they choose to reveal themselves. Their builds are described as both slender and athletic, with an almost ethereal grace to their movements. Their natural voices are described as melodic yet strangely emotionless, almost musical, and capable of influencing the minds of those who hear them. This vocal influence is often subtle, capable of implanting suggestions and altering emotions with ease.

Despite their immense power, Watchers seem to be a relatively small race, with only a handful ever sighted throughout history. Their motives remain shrouded in mystery. Some tales paint them as benevolent observers, watching over the world and subtly guiding it towards a better future. These stories often depict them as protectors of ancient knowledge and guardians. Others, however, depict them as manipulative tricksters who take amusement in influencing mortals, sowing chaos for their own inscrutable purposes. These conflicting portrayals suggest a complex and multifaceted race, driven by motives that are beyond human comprehension. Even powerful and old beings such as some Unseen Elders of the different vampire tribes, and the eastern dragon Shenlong, didn't know much about the Watchers.

There's even a theory that they are a dying race, slowly fading away, which, coupled with the legend of Brianna Vassermiller and her relationship with the mysterious human group known as the Nefandi, would explain their infrequent appearances. This theory posits that the Watchers are the remnants of an ancient civilization that predates even the oldest known histories. As

their power wanes, they retreat further into obscurity, appearing only when absolutely necessary. The Nefandi, on the other hand, are believed to be a shadowy organization dedicated to hunting down and eradicating the remaining Watchers. They sought to prevent the Watchers from achieving full godliness, as it was supposedly their aim to dominate and enslave humanity and other races. This conflict resulted in a catastrophe for both sides, leading the Nefandi to seek refuge in another sphere where they could recover from their injuries and eventually deal with the remaining Grigori. According to this, the number of remaining Watchers would be around two-hundred if not less. This strategy, measured in centuries, involved gaining enough power to confront their ancient enemies. However, neither the Watchers nor the Nefandi are depicted as entirely good or evil in the different stories, adding layers of complexity to their characters and motives.

Possible Watcher Technology

It is said, that the Naglfar, the ship used by the Wild Hunt to transport a great number of troops to other worlds, despise it relative "normal aspect" was, likely a ancient Watcher creation from their early days or heavily influenced by their technology. This is based, on reports of the ship being able to fly.

Possible Watchers

- Arkas
- Dana Méadbh
- "Death"
- Freya
- Gadrel
- Qasda
- Runa
- Shánkaith
- Uraka
- Yakum
- Zaveb

Notes

- Feel free to expand the article respecting the previous information as well putting yourself in the writer tag.

Trivia

- In Earth, groups such as the Longaevi also keep records of the Watchers.
- Andrzej Sapkowski mentioned in an interview that in The Witcher Universe, gods don't actually exist; they are only believed in. However, it is probable that the Hussite trilogy and The Witcher universe are in the same multiverse. Therefore, this expansion of the Watchers focuses more on them being powerful "magical aliens" rather than divinities.
- Some Watchers like Arkas, Gadrel, Qasda and Yakum are a reference to their mythological

counterparts.

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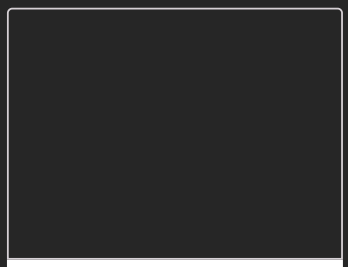

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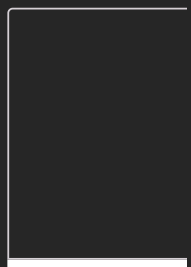

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